

SENSITIVE

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22 May 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Statement by President Nixon Mentioning the ICI
(Ad Hoc) and the IEC and IES

1. On 22 May at 1630 and 1705 hours I received phone calls from Bernard Wells and James McGrath of the Department of Justice, Director and Deputy Director of the IES respectively. The first call gave me the general outline of the information below and the second one provided details.

2. President Nixon has issued an eight-page statement on which J. Fred Buzhardt and Ronald Zeigler were briefing the press at 1710 hours on 22 May. The statement by the President contains two paragraphs dealing with the Inter-agency Committee on Intelligence (Ad Hoc) (ICI) and the Intelligence Evaluation Committee (IEC) and Staff (IES). In the statement the President pointed out that as a result of the FBI having done away with its liaison the President set up in December 1970 the IEC and IES, with the purpose of improving coordination between agencies and preparing evaluations and estimates on domestic intelligence. The President added that he understands that the activities of this Committee are now under investigation, but he is not personally aware that it did anything illegal and did not authorize it to do anything illegal.

3. Both Mr. McGrath and Mr. Wells reaffirmed that the IES had done nothing illegal and they were not aware of its being under investigation. They both professed to be puzzled and somewhat concerned about the last part of the President's statement on the IES.



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(Note: Summary of above information passed to Mr. William E. Colby at 1710 hours, 22 May by phone.)

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